

By Mr. Roome :

Q. Have any of these children been rejected here on arrival by our medical men?—A. Yes.

Q. And been sent back?—A. Yes, and sent back. Not very many, but there have been some.

By Mr. Macdonald (Huron) :

Q. The question is repeatedly put by the Ontario prison commissioners as to the character and class of children coming from the old land.

I think myself this committee should unite in an expression of opinion that no such \$2 a head should be paid by this government to bring such a refuse of the old country civilization, and pour it in here among our people. We take more means to purify our cattle than to purify our population?—A. As to my own views on that question, I would refer you to the observations which I make upon page xxxvii of the annual report of the department of the interior, under the heading of "Juvenile Immigration."

"What I have said about the carefulness of the Canadian government as to the class of people who should be induced to come to the country, applies with particular force to the immigration of juveniles. The observations of the inspector of penitentiaries, in his report of last year, had the effect of directing a good deal of public attention to this matter, and so, at a still later period, had the deliverance of the grand jury at the Brandon autumn assizes, particularly in so far as concerns the operations of Dr. Barnardo. It may be explained that Dr. Barnardo's scheme receives no assistance from the government of Canada except the *per capita* grant of \$2 for such children as are not from workhouses, and the statutory land grant for the establishment at Russell, in Manitoba, where the training school is situated. I take this opportunity of stating that I paid several visits to that school, and in my opinion it is a most excellently conducted institution, under the care of a highly competent and faithful superintendent. The results produced have, under all circumstances, been admirable. The observations of the Brandon grand jury, which have received such extensive public notice on both sides of the Atlantic, would not appear to have been justified by any facts within the knowledge of the department, but under your direction a thorough investigation is at the present time being conducted, which will, it is believed, settle the question at issue definitely and finally.

"Various propositions, having for their object the promotion of juvenile immigration on an extensive scale, and directly under the auspices and with the assistance of the government of Canada, have been brought to your attention during the past year without receiving your approval. There appears to be a pretty strong sentiment, almost amounting to a prejudice, growing up in the minds of the Canadian people in regard to this class of immigration; and, despite the assurances to the contrary of the government of Canada and the ladies and gentlemen on the other side of the Atlantic who interest themselves in the orphan children of the poor, the impression appears to prevail that a large proportion of this class of children are undesirable settlers in this new country. I am persuaded that this sentiment is not justified, but am free to confess that there are facts to be borne in mind, which go a long way to excuse its existence. For instance, it has to be remembered that in Canada, and especially in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, the relation of the hired man and the female domestic servant to the farmer's family, is an entirely different relation from that to which the same classes of people in Great Britain and Ireland have been accustomed; and it is both right and proper that the farmer and his wife should be more than particular about the antecedents of the persons whose contact with their children must be so close, and whose influence upon their life and character must be so great. I trust that these remarks will not be taken to indicate an unfriendly disposition on my part towards this class of immigration. I believe, on the contrary, that it is a good thing, if not conducted upon too large a scale; but I might be permitted to observe in this relation, that there is room for the exercise of philanthropy, perhaps more effectively, in a somewhat different direction."